

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02962 090952Z

53

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /096 W

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R 090924Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3012

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, EGEN, UN, UNGA, SN

SUBJ: 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: STATE 075525

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JULY 7 MFA ASST. SEC. BARRY DESKER SAID GOS PLANS MORE ACTIVE ROLE AT UNGA 7TH SPECIAL SESSION THIS YEAR. THIS YEAR GOS DEL. WILL BE AUGMENTED FROM SINGAPORE AND MAY BE LED BY FONMIN RAJARATNAM (ALTERNATE: PROF. TOMMY KOH, PERMANENT REP. TO UN). IN ADDITION, SINGAPORE MAY SEND ONE OR TWO ECONOMISTS FROM SINGAPORE AND SENIOR OFFICER FROM OTHER OVERSEAS MISSION. GOS PRESENTLY IN PROCESS OF PRELIMINARY POSITION PAPERS ON MEETINGS: POSITIONS IT WILL TAKE NOT YET CLEAR. GOS IS PLANNING NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OR TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THIS POINT.

2. DESKER SAYS GOS CONSIDERS ITSELF PART OF THIRD WORLD GROUP AND FEELS MODERATE MEMBERS (SUCH AS SINGAPORE) SHOULD PARTICIPATE MORE AND HELP TO MODERATE SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME POSITIONS TAKEN BY GROUP OF 77. HE NOTED THIRD WORLD GROUP REALLY REPRESENTS COUNTRIES WITH DIVERGENT VIEWS AND INTERESTS.

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 02962 090952Z

3. ON UNGA 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND OTHER UNGA SESSIONS, HE

BELIEVES IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DETER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES FROM PUSHING PET PROPOSALS IN NUMEROUS SPEECHES, BUT OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG DELEGATIONS CAN ASSIST IN DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON THE MORE WORKABLE APPROACHES TO SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS.

4. AFTER NOTING THAT SINGAPORE HAS NO NATURAL RESOURCES AND IS ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON WELL BEING OF WORLD ECONOMY, GOOD LEVEL OF TRADE, ETC., DESKER SAID HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT NATIONS SUCH AS SINGAPORE AND BRAZIL NOT BE RECLASSIFIED OUT OF LDC STATUS MERELY ON BASIS OF GNP; THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE MODERATING INFLUENCE TO THIRD WORLD GROUP.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOS MAY BEEF UP ITS DELEGATION, IT CAN STILL BE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE DURING PLENARY SESSIONS OF UNGA AND AT 7TH SS. GOS MAY STEP UP LOBBYING IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BUT WILL AVOID PUBLIC CONFLICT WITH ASEAN ASSOCIATES, ESPECIALLY INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA. DESKER WAS CAREFUL DURING CONVERSATION TO REMAIN NON-COMMITTAL BUT LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY AS EMBOFF REVIEWED GENERAL US APPROACH AS OUT-LINED REFTEL. ALTHOUGH GOS WILL AVOID TAKING INITIATIVE DURING 7TH SS, BELIEVE USUN WILL FIND IT USEFUL TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SINGAPORE DELEGATION. GOS WILL BE RELATIVELY SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITION AND MAY BE USEFUL IN INDICATING APPROACHES OR COMPROMISES WHICH HAVE SOME CHANCE OF SUCCESS. GRANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP02962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750236-1243
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750772/aaaacmlx.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 075525
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, EGEN, SN, UN, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006